



Borough of Lowestoft



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REPORT

OF

**The Medical Officer
of Health**

AND

Port Medical Officer

for the Year

1956

ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1956

Chairman :

MISS ALDERMAN MANN.

Vice-Chairman :

MR. ALDERMAN WARD.

THE MAYOR.

MR. ALDERMAN KEENE	MR. COUNCILLOR HORTON
„ WALLER	„ NEWSON
MRS. „ WING	MRS. „ NOBBS
MR. COUNCILLOR CALVERT	MR. „ OLDMAN
„ CASTLETON	MRS. „ RUMP
„ CRANE	MR. „ SANDERS
„ DURRANT, D.	„ THOMPSON
MRS. „ EDMONDS	MRS. „ WOOD GREAVES
MR. „ GOWER	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer and Borough School Medical Officer :

ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Deputy Borough School Medical Officer :

ISABELLA SIM, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector, Port Health Inspector :

H. CORMACK, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Deputy Port Health Inspector :

F. G. S. HILL, CERT., S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

K. G. ADAMS, CERT., S.I.B., M.S.I.A. J. R. FISHER, CERT., S.I.B., M.S.I.A,
D. W. GOODHAND, CERT., S.I.B., H. D. WILLIAMS, CERT., S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A. M.S.I.A.

(Commenced 1st November, 1956) (Resigned 23rd September, 1956)

Combined Health Visitors and School Nurses :

MISS H. PLACE (Deputy County Nursing Officer).

MISS J. COSNETT

MISS A. TAYLOR

MRS. D. CARTER

MISS E. PRETTY

MRS. G. ROBERTSON

MISS M. EDWARDS

(Commenced 16th July, 1956)

(Commenced 8th August, 1956)

Chief Clerk :

MRS. A. P. RAY.



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Health Department,

123, High Street,

Lowestoft.

YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year, 1956.

The statistics for the year show a steady increase in the work carried out in almost all aspects of the Department's activities. The attendances at the Welfare Centres are again up, the Home Help Service has increased, the introduction of such new protective measures as antipolio injections, and the approval given to your Medical Officers to carrying out vaccination against smallpox, have increased the medical, clerical and administrative work. The number of medical examinations carried out on new staff for all the Borough Departments for superannuation purposes, and similar examinations for teachers and the medical examination of school children prior to employment, all show a marked increase.

On the Public Health Inspector's side of the work, additional work in connection with legislation relating to housing and food hygiene have added considerably to the previous activities of the Department.

It is not surprising, therefore that the inadequacy of Connaught House as accommodation for the clerical and medical work of the Department has been much in your minds during the year. Extensive renovations to the building have enabled the Clinic part of the premises to be used for a further period, but the office accommodation continues to be extremely cramped and the problem of storage space for documents, records, correspondence, etc., is very great indeed. In order to carry out their work, the clerks have to move from one room to another and from floor to floor, thus wasting time and effort. In addition to the clerks, the building is used by medical staff, health visitors and school nurses and health inspectors. Furthermore, other departments with which we have much to do and who ought to be accommodated in the same building as ourselves, such as the Welfare Officers and Children's Department, are in buildings in other parts of the town. Members of the Committee are I know well aware of the unsuitability of these premises and there is no need for me to labour the point. They will I know, appreciate the extent to which efficiency in the working of the Department could be increased by transfer to a building adequate in size and designed specifically for use as a Health Department. It is to be hoped that the various tentative schemes which have been mooted in the past, may very soon begin to take material shape.

There have been one or two staff changes during the year. Miss Edwards joined the Health Visiting Staff and has proved a most valuable asset in that sphere. Mr. Williams resigned from the Public Health Inspector's Department in September on taking up an appointment at Yarmouth, and his place was taken by Mr. Goodhand to whom we extend a cordial welcome.

The year was one singularly free from notifiable infectious disease as a perusal of the relevant statistics will reveal. In this connection I would like to thank those family doctors who have taken the trouble to report to me the occurrence of non-notifiable infectious disease. This is most appreciated and helps one to ascertain the incidence of some of the virus infections which now appear to be increasing in prevalence.

Antipoliomyelitis vaccine became available in May. The number of children registered for the initial doses considerably exceed the amount of vaccine which ultimately became available. It is to be hoped that supplies of vaccine will become much more plentiful in the near future.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into force in January and I would like particularly to direct members attention to the Chief Public Health Inspector's observations on these in a latter part of this report. Whilst we had no outbreaks of food poisoning this year, our experience the previous year showed how vigilant all must be who have the handling of the things we eat.

I would also like to draw attention to those sections of the report dealing with the work carried out in relation to the fishing vessels using the Port. The regular inspections which have become routine during the past couple of years or so, have proved very worthwhile. May I thank the vessel owners for their co-operation in remedying the defects which are brought to light in this manner. It is a very creditable thing that one can report that not a single case of vermin was found on any fishing vessel during the year.

Finally, I have pleasure in once again thanking all my staff for the ready way in which they have co-operated in enabling the Department to run smoothly during the year. They have taken up with enthusiasm the new schemes which we have had to undertake and the team spirit which exists in the Department has enabled us to get through much extra work with the minimum of difficulty.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE,

Medical Officer of Health.

MAY, 1957.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Totals</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	284	272	556
	Illegitimate	19	13	32
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		303	285	588
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

LOWESTOFT *Comparative
Figures for
England and Wales.*

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1955	13.4 (Crude) 13.7 (Adjusted)	15.7
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STILLBIRTHS		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	17.0	23.0

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	5	10

DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population	12.0 (Crude) 11.6 (Adjusted)	11.7
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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE
YEAR OF AGE

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7	4	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

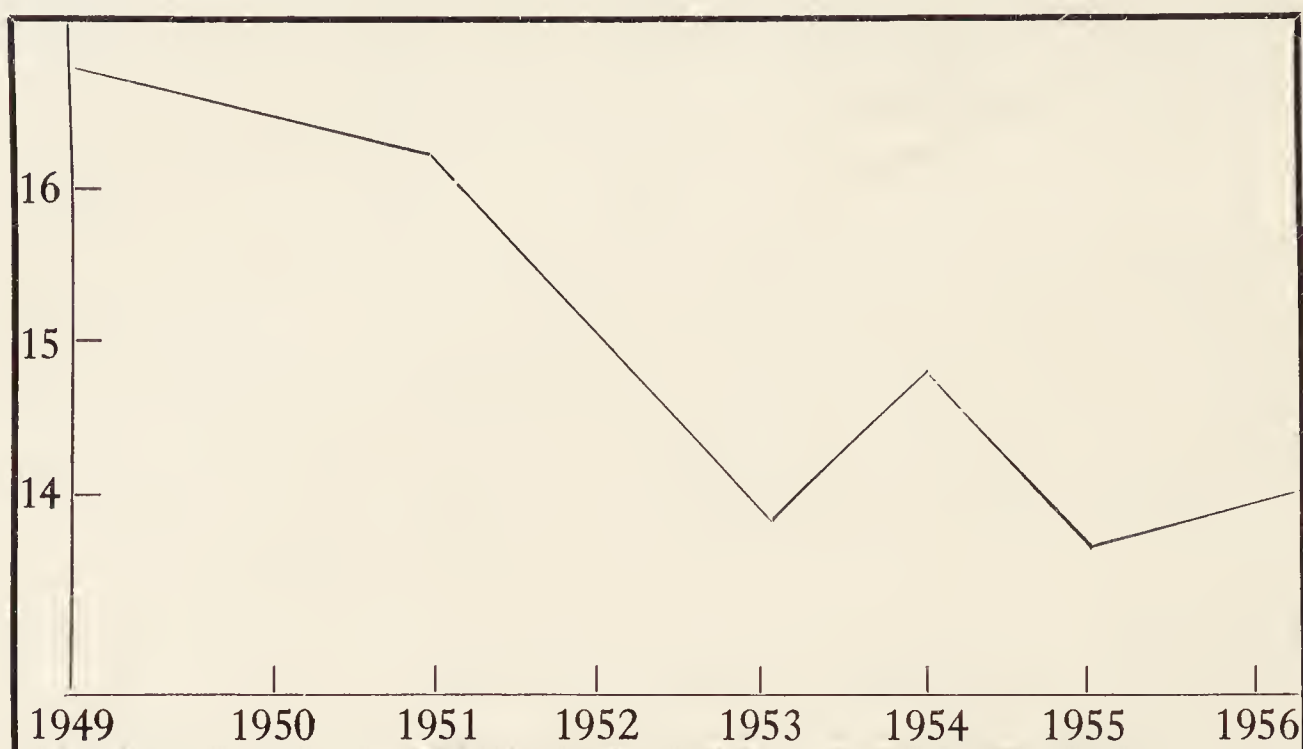
Rate per 1.000 live births	18.7	23.8
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE		

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	2	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Comment on Vital Statistics.

The birth rate shows a very slight rise this year and one can say that the level of births is now more or less stabilised after the high rate of the immediate post-war years.

The trend during the past few years is shown by the following graph :



The still births are considerably lower this year, as are the deaths of infants under one year and the deaths of infants under four weeks of age.

The adjusted death rate is higher than last year but continues to be just below the national average.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (including foreshore) (Acres)	.....	.....	5,495
Population at 1951 Census	.....	.....	42,837
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1956	.....	.....	43,720
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31st December, 1956	.....	.....	13,811
Rateable value—31st December, 1956	.....	.....	£532,337
Sum represented by a penny rate 1956/57 (approx.)			£2,100

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1956.

<i>Classification Number</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective, and parasitic diseases	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	14	9
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	20	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	25	25
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	2
16.	Diabetes	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	41
18.	Coronary disease, angina	45	44
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	9
20.	Other heart disease	44	42
21.	Other circulatory disease	14	10
22.	Influenza	3	3
23.	Pneumonia	5	8
24.	Bronchitis	11	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	8	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	9	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	18
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	2
34.	All other accidents	4	6
35.	Suicide	4	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES		273	254

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year, together with the figures for 1955 and 1954.

<i>Disease</i>	1956	1955	1954
Scarlet Fever	39	9	36
Diphtheria	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	1	21	1
Encephalitis	—	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Dysentery	11	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	11	27
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	1	3
Whooping Cough	35	74	44
Measles	13	459	178
Pneumonia	16	10	6
Infective Hepatitis	7	5	10
Food Poisoning	—	24	—
Tuberculosis	16	28	21

The year under review showed a higher incidence of scarlet fever than the previous year, being much about the same as for 1954. We were fortunate in having only one case of poliomyelitis. The incidence of measles was surprisingly low. Presumably most of the susceptible children contracted it during 1955, when the number of notified cases was very high.

I am pleased to be able to record that there were no cases of food poisoning during the year, probably due to the cool summer.

Immunisation against poliomyelitis was begun during the year. Some 688 children were registered for this but vaccine for only 77 became available during the year.

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough has continued throughout the year, 600 having been immunised by the family doctors or in the Local Authority clinics in the Borough.

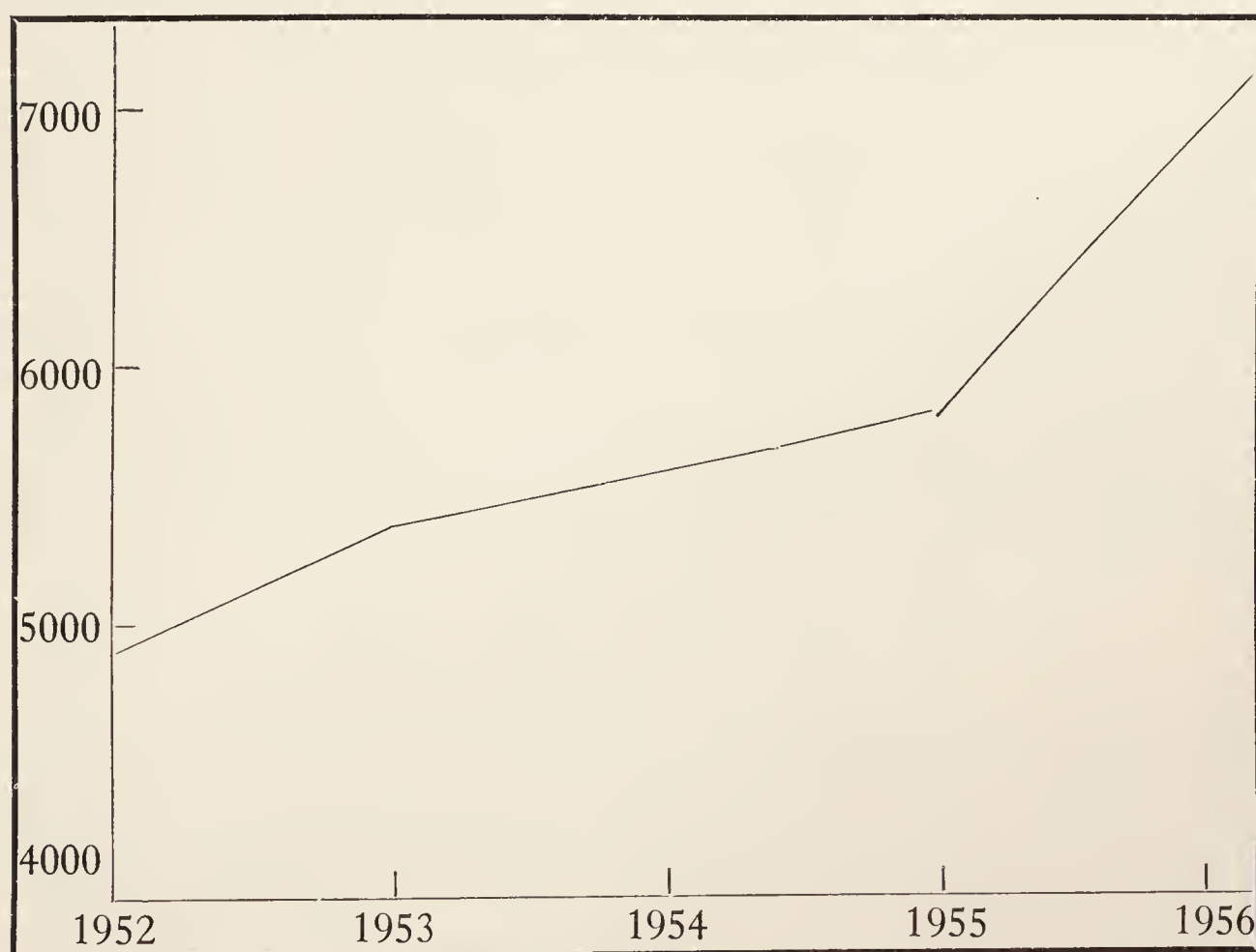
As members of the Committee will recall, authority was given during the year for your Medical Officers to undertake vaccination against smallpox. In view of the fact that we are a sea port, it is highly desirable that as many of the population as possible should be vaccinated against this disease, which, whilst not exactly very common, is still around, and energetic steps are now being taken to encourage as many parents as we can to have their children vaccinated. 205 children were vaccinated in the Borough during the year.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

<i>Centre</i>	1956			1955		
	0-1	1-5	<i>Total</i>	0-1	1-5	<i>Total</i>
Connaught House	2447	336	2783	2214	496	2710
Southwell Road	2642	339	3081	1588	222	1810
Oulton Broad	1430	175	1605	1205	177	1382
Total attendances at three centres :			7469			5902

The attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough are shown above. There has again been a further marked increase in attendances. The past five years has shown a steady growth in the work carried out at these centres as is shown by the graph reproduced below. Two weekly sessions are held at Connaught House, one at Oulton Broad and one at Southwell Road, though an additional weekly session has now been started at the latter clinic.

The rapid rise in attendances during the past five years is all the more gratifying because over this period the birth rate has been falling. The proportion of children in the town attending these clinics is therefore increasing at an even greater rate and is a striking tribute to the place which the Infant Welfare Centre holds in the esteem of the young mother of to-day.



ANTENATAL CLINICS

BOROUGH ANTENATAL CLINICS

Total Number of Attendances 1956 - 149 1955 - 135

BOROUGH POSTNATAL CLINICS

Total Number of Attendances 1956 - 2 1955 - 1

The number of attendances at these clinics remains at about the same level as previously.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

	<i>Southwell Road Clinic.</i>	<i>Connaught House Clinic.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of new cases who attended for the first time this year	33	24	57
Number of patients attending	45	53	98
Total Number of patients attending	78	77	155
Total number of attendances	117	119	236

The facilities provided at the above clinic are restricted to those who are recommended either by their own doctors or by the health visitors. The attendances are again up on previous years and there is every reason to assume that the demands on this service will continue to increase.

HOME HELP SERVICE

An analysis of help provided during the year is given in the following table :—

	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	<i>Old</i>	<i>Sick</i>
No. of cases assisted	68	2	216	81
	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>T.B. and other Sickness</i>	<i>Old Age</i>	
Hours worked	5,984	21,056	40,764	
Total number of cases assisted	.....	.....	.....	367
Total number of hours worked	.....	.....	.....	67,804
Total number of Home Helps enrolled	.....	.....	.....	104

Help given to elderly persons has increased this year ; that to sick has decreased. In spite of the number of enrolled Home Helps having dropped off from the previous year, the total number of hours worked has increased by a further 4,829 hours.

DISTRICT NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

The local arrangements for Midwifery and General Nursing are made by the East Suffolk County Council. It is felt however, that members of the Borough Health Committee would be interested in the work carried out within the Borough in this sphere. I am indebted to Miss Place, the Deputy County Nursing Officer for the following statistics :—

<i>Number of attendances made by District Nurses :</i>			
1953	1954	1955	1956
42,008	47,023	30,602	35,763
<i>Number of deliveries attended by District Midwives :</i>			
1953	1954	1955	1956
509	428	358	352

METEOROLOGICAL DATA

The following meteorological summary is afforded by courtesy of the Meteorological Observer, Mr. A. W. Beckett.

Sunshine

Sun hours were below the yearly normal by 112.8 hours.

Sunniest day 27th May - 15.3 hours.

Rain

Greatest falls in a day 0.9 inches - 10th July, 0.85 inches - 1st August and 1st October.

Rain was below the yearly normal by 1.60 inches.

Date of last ground frost of Spring - 21st May.

Date of first ground frost of Autumn - Record not available.

After 1st May there were no further air frosts until 25th November.

Snow completely covered the ground on eighteen days.

Barometer Readings

Highest : 30.552, November 1st, 7th and 15th.

Lowest : 29.046, January 11th.

Sunless days - 82.

Rain days - (i.e. 0.2 millimetres or more) - 178.

Wet days - (i.e. 1.0 millimetres or more) - 117

<i>Month</i>	<i>Winds (to eight points of the Compass)</i>									<i>Totals</i>
	<i>N.</i>	<i>NE.</i>	<i>E.</i>	<i>SE.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>SW.</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>NW.</i>	<i>Calm</i>	
January	—	4	1	2	5	4	12	1	2	31
February	1	6	6	1	—	1	9	5	—	29
March	1	4	8	8	1	3	5	1	—	31
April	4	8	7	2	1	—	5	1	2	30
May	3	—	3	2	2	3	10	3	5	31
June	3	3	—	1	1	2	11	6	3	30
July	2	2	3	4	1	6	9	3	1	31
August	2	1	2	1	1	1	16	4	3	31
September	1	1	5	6	1	3	11	1	1	30
October	1	1	—	1	1	9	9	8	1	31
November	2	2	2	3	2	3	8	6	2	30
December	—	1	1	5	3	8	11	2	—	31
	20	33	38	36	19	43	116	41	20	366

A further meteorological table is reproduced on page 32 giving the Meteorological Observers recordings in greater detail.

LOWESTOFT & DISTRICT T.B. CARE COMMITTEE.

Statement of Account for the Period 1st April, 1956 - 31st March, 1957.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Forms of Extra Nourishment	40	18	0	Petty Cash	1	6	8
Clothing	8	9	2	By balance brought forward 1st April, 1956	83	11	10
Bedding, lino and curtains	4	0	0	Grants during above period	100	0	0
Travelling Expenses of Relatives	14	1	6	Donation, Sunday Cinema Fund	22	13	4
Fuel	55	12	8	Profit from Annual Dance	53	10	9
Other Expenditure:				" Raffle	19	12	0
Postages, etc.	4	5	5				
Wireless Licences	3	0	0				
Wireless Repair	1	8	0				
Cheque Book	10	0	0				
Removals	16	5	0				
Holiday Fares	7	9	0				
Petty Cash	2	13	8				
Balance at Bank after all outstanding accounts have been paid	122	2	2				

£280 14 7

£280 14 7

LOWESTOFT & DISTRICT T.B. CARE COMMITTEE.

DR. M. C. JOHNS (*Chairman*) Resigned January, 1957

MRS. D. OLLINGTON (*Vice-Chairman*)

DR. A. C. GEE (*Secretary*)

LADY GOOCH

MISS V. PRYCE

MRS. M. CHADD

MRS. R. PEREGRINE

MRS. M. WINGFIELD

MRS. J. LING

MRS. K. MOBBS

MISS E. FORSYTH

MRS. E. RATCLIFFE

MRS. F. REEVE

MRS. G. COOPER

MISS R. STILES

The accounts of the Committee are shown herewith. The amount spent on help, covers aid to nineteen patients or their families, for such items as grants towards clothing on leaving sanatorium, extra groceries, removal expenses incurred on rehousing, renewal of wireless licences, and fares granted to relatives for visiting patients in sanatoria. It also covers the cost of grants of coal to 31 patients, who received 1 cwt. in November and March and 2 cwt. in December, January and February, and the gift of Christmas parcels to 35 patients or their families.

As will be seen from the accounts, a total of £95 16s. 1d. was raised by local effort towards the Committee's expenses, last year's dance once again producing a very satisfactory profit. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my Chief Clerk, Mrs. A. P. Ray, for the great amount of work she has voluntarily put into that function during the past two years which has helped so much to make our last two dances so financially successful. Thanks to these local efforts we had to ask the parent association for grants of only £100 during the year.

The Committee itself is drawn from representatives from the Borough and Lothingland. They meet as circumstances require. We were pleased to welcome several new members on the Committee during the year. Mrs. Ollington very kindly accepted the Chairmanship and I must thank her and the other members of the Committee for the service they have rendered to this cause.

The amount collected by the sale of Christmas Seals was down on the previous year's total, presumably because of the intensive seals sale campaigns organised by other voluntary bodies. In view of this competition, the amount collected viz. £90 11s. 9d. must be considered as very gratifying. The seal sales money is paid into the funds of the parent body and is consequently not shown in the accompanying statement of accounts. It is from this central fund, that the grants to the local Committees are made.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Lowestoft Water Company and I am indebted to the Secretary and General Manager, J. M. Boon, Esq., for the following information.

The average daily consumption was 1.99 million gallons per day and the daily consumption per head of estimated population is 40.7 gallons. The amount supplied for trade purposes is 795,000 gallons per day.

Monthly samples of the water are submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination and the reports indicate that the supply is pure and wholesome, of the highest standard of bacterial purity for drinking and domestic purposes.

The monthly reports follow a similar pattern and a specimen report of a sample taken on 13.12.56 is detailed below :—

<i>Chemical</i>			
Appearance	.....	.....	Bright with a very few particles
Colour	.....	.....	7
p.H.	.....	.....	7.3
Electric Conductivity	.....		420
Chlorine present as Chloride			53
Hardness : Total	170	.....	Carbonate 95 Non-Carbonate 75
Nitrate Nitrogen	.....	.....	1.6
*Ammoniacal Nitrogen	.....		0.025
*Albuminoid Nitrogen	.....		0.071
Metals. Iron :	0.03	.....	Other metals absent.
Turbidity	.....	.....	Less than 3
Odour	.....	.....	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	.....		7
Total Solids	.....	.....	280
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate			95
Nitrite Nitrogen	.....	.....	Approx. 0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	.....		0.90
Residual Chlorine	.....		0.05
*To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21.			
<i>Bacteriological</i>			
No. of colonies developing on agar.			
1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.	
0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction. Absent from 100 ml.			
Bact. Coli (Type 1). Absent from 100 ml.			
Cl. welchii Reaction. Absent from 100 ml.			

“ This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is moderately hard in character and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The following information has been supplied by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, (G. A. M. Gentry, Esq.).

Regarding the Joint South Lowestoft and Carlton Colville Sewerage scheme, the agreement with the Lowestoft Corporation and Lothingland R.D.C. has been completed. At the time of writing as a result of a joint deputation, the Ministry has invited the authorities to proceed with inviting tenders for the work.

Number of pail closets emptied by Corporation	.....	197
Number of cesspools emptied by Corporation	.....	239

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

I am indebted to the Chief Public Health Inspector for the following reports relating to work carried out in his Department.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

On August 2nd, 1956, by Act of Parliament the designation Sanitary Inspector was changed to Public Health Inspector. Concern has been expressed time and again of the shortage of Sanitary Inspectors throughout the country and the Working Party set up to report on the recruitment, training and qualifications of inspectors recommended the change of designation.

With the increase of legislation year by year, the advancements in food technology, the emphasis on housing and environmental hygiene and the advent of food hygiene regulations, it was considered that the new designation better indicates the duties and responsibilities attached to the post. Whether or not this change of designation will accelerate recruitment remains to be seen. A student Public Health Inspector in East Anglia to-day has to travel to London for his theoretical training.

Industry is competing more and more for the type of young man who used to be attracted to local government and can offer him better educational facilities and improved financial reward for his services.

As will be seen from the report, slum clearance and food hygiene were the two priorities during the year and will continue to be so for the next few years.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of all the members of the staff for their loyal support and co-operation throughout the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT SLUM CLEARANCE

HOUSING :

As reported last year, it was agreed that detailed housing inspections should commence of the area adjacent to the Town Hall. As a result of these inspections the Council declared the following Clearance Areas.

Mariner's Street No. 1 Clearance Area comprising 9 houses

Mariner's Street No. 2 Clearance Area comprising 20 houses

Park Road Clearance Area comprising 23 houses

St. Margaret's Plain Clearance Area comprising 4 houses

The Hemplands Clearance Area comprising 9 houses

It is proposed to deal with these areas by means of Compulsory Purchase Orders and the cleared sites will then be utilised for the building of flats with the exception of the St. Margaret's Plain Area where it is proposed to erect shops with living accommodation over the shops.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Woods Loke Clearance Area without modification and the tenants of the 3 occupied houses were rehoused by the Corporation.

Detailed inspections are now proceeding of the area South of Dove Street and it is anticipated that part of this area will be considered during 1957.

Inspections were made at Nos. 4/16 Parkhill Cottages, Oulton, and early in 1957 the Council will be asked to deal with these cottages as a Clearance Area.

During the year action was taken to deal with individually unfit houses as follows :—

Number of unfit houses demolished	.....	.....	.....	10
Number of houses closed	.....	.....	.....	15
Parts of houses closed	.....	.....	.....	11
Number of families rehoused from unfit properties	.....			21

Legal proceedings were taken against the owner and the occupier of one house which had been re-occupied after an undertaking had been previously accepted that the house would not be used for human habitation. Magistrates fined both the owner and the occupier. The Council decided to put a Closing Order on this house and the tenant was rehoused.

Two houses, the subject of undertakings, were rendered fit and the undertakings cancelled. The works entailed extensive reconditioning, rebuilding and the provision of modern amenities. The final result was that one dilapidated cottage was made into a delightful detached residence and the other one was converted into four self-contained flats.

On my representation, the owner of a house in the Hemplands Clearance Area gave an undertaking not to relet the house if the Council rehoused the tenant. It was considered that the dwelling was becoming dangerous to live in and the tenant was quickly rehoused by the Council.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Five Certificates of Disrepair under Section 26 of this Act were granted to tenants who applied for them and two Certificates were revoked after the owners had completed the works necessary to put the houses in good repair.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor (G. A. M. Gentry, Esq.,) has kindly supplied the following information.

Amount of refuse disposed of by controlled tipping—13,285 tons.

Number of premises from which refuse was collected—15,760.

Labour 28 loaders 6 drivers 6 vehicles

2 „ 1 „ 1 lorry (Wed., Thurs., Friday).

Labour at Tip—2 men plus 1 driver with a Chaseside Shovel Machine.

LABOUR FOR STREET CLEANING :

20 Orderlies.

Each Orderly uses a standard pattern 2 wheeled barrow served by one 2 ton lorry for collecting sweepings.

One mechanical sweeper is used for street cleaning.

One gulley emptier with driver and attendant is used for gulley flushing to highways.

DUSTBINS :

Dustbins supplied by the Borough Engineer's Department under the Municipal Dustbin Scheme—20.

The Chief Public Health Inspector reports that he carried out regular inspections of the tips during the year and found the work being carried out in a satisfactory manner. No complaints were received during the year regarding any form of nuisance due to tipping operations.

Tipping was carried on at the North Denes from January to May and again from October to December, this being in accordance with the Council's decision to cease tipping on the North Denes during the summer months. The tip at Britten Road/Kirkley Run was filled in during the year.

Refuse collection and disposal is a very onerous task and all engaged in this important aspect of municipal work are to be complimented upon the efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties.

PAIL CLOSETS AND CESSPOOLS

School Road was sewered during the year, and as a result it was possible to provide proper drainage to the six houses Nos. 3/8 School Road. Previously these six houses were provided with pail closets and sink waste water was discharged into three cesspools.

As a result of notices being served on the owner a new drain was laid to connect to the new public sewer, the pail closets were converted to W.C.'s and the cesspools were abolished and filled in.

Towards the end of the year a start was made on sewerage Gunton St. Peter's Avenue and notices were served requiring the drains of 12 houses to be connected to the public sewer and the pail closets to be abolished and water-closets provided. Three properties were drained to cesspools and the Health Committee authorised notices to be served for the abolition of these cesspools and the laying of drains to connect to the new public sewer, this work has to be undertaken at the Council's expense. These works will all be completed early in 1957.

The Health Committee have agreed to the abolition of 4 cesspools in Oulton Road, the cost of this work to be borne during the next financial year. The appropriate notices will be served early in the new financial year.

NEW HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

I am informed by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor that during the year 187 houses were erected by private enterprise and 65 by the Council.

The total is exactly the same as for 1955, but whereas private enterprise building increased by 50% the Council building decreased by 50%.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

NOTICES

Informal notices served	106
Statutory notices served	263
(P.H.A.—222. H.A.—26. L.C.A.—15.)	
Informal notices complied with	110
Statutory notices complied with	249
(P.H.A.—209. H.A.—25. L.C.A.—15.)	

NOTE : In the majority of cases an informal notice is served prior to

the service of a statutory notice, but these informal notices are not included in the above list. The discrepancy in the number of notices served and complied with is owing to the fact that some notices served in 1955 were complied with in 1956, and some served at the end of 1956 will be complied with in 1957.

Accumulations	117	Animals, etc.	30
Ashbins	4	Caravans	54
Camping Sites	79	Cesspools	16
Conveniences	73	Dirty Houses	36
Dirty Persons	13	Drainage	479
Drain tests	25	Factories and Outworkers	251
Offensive Smells	105	Offensive Trades	9
Passages	139	Piggeries	14
Places of Entertainment	6	Rats and Mice	104
Schools	5	Smoke Observations	50
Swimming Baths	37	Temporary Dwellings	14
Water Supply	26	Miscellaneous	318
Verminous Premises	21	Infectious disease Enquiries	4
Food Poisoning Enquiries	13	Disinfection after Infectious Disease	12

Defects remedied and nuisances abated included :—

Accumulations cleared	7	Animal nuisances abated.....	1
Ceilings repaired	28	Cesspools repaired	1
Chimneys repaired	22	Cooking stoves repaired	6
Cooking stoves renewed	2	Doors and frames repaired	39
Doors and frames renewed	6	Drains repaired	27
Drains renewed	7	Drains cleared	21
Dampness abated	69	Damp-proof courses renewed	1
Eavesgutters repaired	44	Eavesgutters renewed	32
Food stores provided	2	Fireplaces repaired	38
Fireplaces renewed	2	Floors repaired	33
Floors renewed	11	Offensive smells abated	27
Passages paved and drained	7	Rainwater pipes repaired	21
Rainwater pipes renewed	7	Roofs repaired	102
Roofs renewed	1	Sink waste pipes repaired	34
Sinks renewed	11	Stairways repaired	23
Wallplaster repaired	74	Brickwork repaired	63
Brickwork cement rendered	33	Washboilers renewed	6
Waterclosets repaired	34	W.C. basins renewed	16
Water supply provided	4	Windows repaired	106
Pail closet conversions	6	Cesspools abolished	3

Choked Public sewers cleared under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by the Borough Engineer's Department—90 (involving 256 houses).

RODENT CONTROL

After a series of complaints, over a long period, of rat infestations in the region of Maltsters Score, the public sewer was tested and found to be defective in several places. It was apparent that the rats were originating from the sewer. Upon excavation by the Borough Engineer's Department, it was found that the main sewer was constructed largely of soft, red, unglazed, earthenware pipes. The joints were not properly laid and settlement had caused the pipes to pull apart. Crude

connections were found between the branch drains and sewers and the main sewer, and two disused branch drains were discovered which had not been properly cut and sealed off from the main sewer thus providing ideal harbourage for rats. Numerous rat runs led from these defects and many dead rats were found which had been killed by previous poison baiting.

The condition of the sewer necessitated the relaying of a considerable length with new connections to the branches. The branch drains no longer in use were cut off properly. No further complaints of rat infestations have arisen from the area since the work was completed.

In August, following complaints of rats, the main public sewer in Wildes Score was tested and upon excavation by the Borough Engineer's Department, was found to be in a similar condition to the sewer in Maltster's Score. The defective portion was relayed.

Cambridge Road was again a source of great trouble to the Borough Engineer as owing to the state of the old brick culvert, rats were able to undermine the roadway and cause subsidence.

The sewers in Clapham Road, Topping Street and Edinburgh Road were also a source of repeated trouble and defective drains allowing rats to escape were found in Cathcart Street, Topping Street, Sussex Road and Raglan Street.

Complaints of rats in the gardens of the Corporation houses in Normanston Drive came as a surprise. One's first reaction is to suspect defective drains, but it is usual to find rats in old brick culverts or in disused drainage systems and not in new systems. Upon investigation it was found that drainage connections to two manholes had been made but not used and were, unfortunately, not sealed off. After the manholes had been baited and the drain openings sealed off no further trouble was experienced.

The practice of twice yearly baiting of the sewers is, in my opinion, insufficient and it is hoped to try baiting four times a year those sewers which are known to be heavily infested in an effort to reduce the rat population with possible consequent savings on road and sewer maintenance.

A summary of the work carried out by the rodent operatives is tabulated below :—

<i>Type of property</i>	<i>Number surveyed</i>	<i>Number treated for rats</i>	<i>Number treated for mice</i>	<i>Number treated for both rats and mice</i>
Private dwellinghouses	2,117	1,194	627	40
Local Authority Premises	28	11	7	—
Agricultural Premises	4	—	—	—
All other Premises	237	30	54	17
TOTALS :	2,386	1,235	688	57

During the year treatments were carried out at 101 business premises and the cost of this work recoverable from the traders concerned was £140 6s. 2d. In addition treatments were carried out at 18 Corporation owned properties at a cost of £21 13s. 4d.

There were 602 complaints received from members of the public regarding rat and mice infestations.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year 50 observations of smoke from factory chimneys were made, mainly in July and August when repeated serious smoke nuisances were caused by a factory in the Borough which had installed new boilers. These nuisances may have been attributable to faulty firing, unsuitable fuel or a combination of these two factors. The firm was approached and made adjustments to the boiler plant including the provision of F.R.S. firedoors. The latter are designed to improve the intake of secondary air over the firebed and thus to assist in the combustion of the black volatiles preventing their emission from the boiler-house chimney.

The management pointed out that they had had difficulty in obtaining suitable fuel. The large hard steaming coal is the most suitable and since this is on special allocation they had had difficulty in obtaining regular supplies.

Since the matter has been taken up with the firm, observations have shown that the smoke nuisances have ceased. I have been informed that the management have in mind the future installation of mechanical stokers. If this is undertaken with the use of suitable fuel, the possibility of further smoke nuisance from the factory should be virtually eliminated.

SWIMMING BATHS

Twenty-seven samples of the water from the Swimming Pool at Oulton Broad were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich, and of these seven were unsatisfactory.

Early in July when samples were first taken, it was evident that the bacteriological standard of the water was unsatisfactory.

The water used is town's water subjected to continuous filtration and chlorination and the efficiency of the mechanical filter which filters all of the water in the bath every four hours, was suspected. Repeated back flushing of this filter was undertaken at night and morning. Fortunately it was not found necessary to close the plant down and the chlorine dosage was increased to the safe limit in an effort to ensure a safe water whilst the filter was being cleansed. Twice weekly samples were taken and at the end of a fortnight reports indicated that the filter was relieved of its accumulated matter. One week later samples were again good and they continued to be so until the end of the season.

After the bath was closed down at the end of Summer, the mechanical filter was emptied of sand, the mechanical parts completely overhauled and the sand washed thoroughly. Samples of the washed sand were submitted to the manufacturers of the filtration plant and they have advised that the sand is quite fit to be used again.

The bathing pool staff carry out frequent daily tests of the bath water to determine the free chlorine content. This testing is most important as the number of bathers using the pool during certain times of the season is far in excess of the numbers envisaged when the pool was originally constructed.

The samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors are obtained at varying times during the day and evening and also at weekends, thus ensuring that the chlorination is effective at times when there is a peak load.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

Disinfestations carried out by the Corporation Disinfecting Assistant were as follows :—

Ants	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Cockroaches	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Bugs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Earwigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Wasps Nests	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Churchyard Beetles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Disinfections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

57 lots of bedding were disinfected after infectious disease.

In addition, 500 mattresses from a holiday camp were disinfected and the cost of same charged to the proprietors.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

In my report for 1955, I commented upon the use of the South Denes for camping by gypsies and the trouble they caused us. I pointed out that we had adopted a policy of moving them off within 24 to 36 hours and expressed the opinion that this policy would probably discourage these people from coming to Lowestoft. It is pleasing to report that during 1956 there was almost a complete disappearance of gypsies camping in the Borough and no difficulty was encountered in dealing with the odd ones that did arrive.

The licensed sites in the Borough were generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

At a site used by one family a supply of mains water was provided in lieu of the polluted well water and at a further site occupied by one elderly lady the Council carried out works under the Public Health Act and recovered the cost of same.

The Corporation caravan site was again very popular and it is planned to extend this site ready for the 1957 holiday season.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following list shows the number and type of food businesses in the Borough :—

Hotels	.....	.....	.....	28	Boarding Houses	.....	129
Cafes Restaurants	.....	.....	.....	76	Grocers	.....	212
Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	44	Confectioners	.....	65
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	47	Fried Fish & Chip Shops	.....	45
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	17	Bakehouses	.....	19
Public Houses and other Licensed Premises	.....	.....	.....	73	Ice Cream Manufacturers	.....	6
Holiday Camps	.....	.....	.....	1	Canning and Preserved Food Factories	.....	5
Poultry dressing	.....	.....	.....	1	Sweet Manufacturing	.....	1
Beer and Mineral Water Bottlers	.....	.....	.....	4	Bakery Depots	.....	2
Dairies	.....	.....	.....	9	Shrimp Boilers	.....	4
Fish Curing Premises	.....	.....	.....	40	Flour Mills	.....	1
Tripe Dresser	.....	.....	.....	1	Greengrocers stalls	.....	9
Slaughterhouses	.....	.....	.....	3	Canteens	.....	20
Mobile Canteens	.....	.....	.....	2			

REGISTRATIONS

The table below shows the number of premises registered under the Food and Drug Act, 1955.

Fish Curing Premises	40
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Manufacturers of Sausages or Potted, Pressed, Preserved or Pickled Foods	53
Fish Fryers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Ice Cream Manufacturers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Ice Cream Retailers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	232
Ice Cream Storage Depots	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Food Factories	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 54.						
Dairies	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9

INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR

Bakehouses	.....	.....	50	Boarding Houses and		
Cafes & Restaurants	.....	.....	85	Hotels	.....	230
Dairies	.....	.....	86	Canteens	.....	10
Fish Curers	.....	.....	13	Food Factories	.....	24
Fried Fish Shops	.....	.....	12	Fishmongers	.....	4
Grocers	.....	.....	204	Greengrocers	.....	39
Ice Cream Makers	.....	.....	21	Holiday Camps	.....	4
Licensed Premises	.....	.....	63	Ice Cream Vendors	.....	22
Meat Shops & Stores	.....	.....	69	Markets	.....	70
Slaughterhouses	.....	.....	638	Milk Shops	.....	24
Tripe Dressers	.....	.....	9	Fish Market	.....	371
Miscellaneous Inspections	.....	.....	217	Poultry Dressing	.....	3

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

As in previous years all diseased and unsound meat was collected by the Suffolk Fat and Bone Co., Ltd., for manufacture into animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers. Other foodstuffs are disposed of either by burning or by deep burying on the Corporation tips.

UN SOUND FOOD

Details of the various foods examined and found to be unfit and which were voluntarily surrendered by the traders are summarised below :—

Beans	.....	45 tins	Meat	.....	403 lbs.
Bacon	.....	91 lbs.	Meat	.....	372 tins
Cake Mixture	.....	13 pkts.	Meat Paste	.....	24 jars
Cake	.....	129 lbs.	Milk	.....	370 tins
Cheese	.....	104 lbs.	Ox Livers	.....	96 lbs.
Cheese&HamSpread	.....	60 cartons	Potatoes	.....	9 cwts.
ChocolateSwissRolls	.....	61 cartons	Prunes	.....	48 lbs.
Creamed Rice	.....	8 tins	Pickles & Sauce	.....	37 bottles
Fish	.....	54 tins	Pineapples	.....	81
Fish Paste	.....	16 jars	Peas	.....	272 tins
Fish - smoked	.....	3 stones	Peas - split	.....	120 lbs.
Fish - wet	.....	20 stones	Ricory	.....	1 bottle
Fruit	.....	3,389 tins	Sausages	.....	46 lbs.
Ham	.....	16½ lbs.	Salmon	.....	12 tins
Instant Postum	.....	1 bottle	Salad Cream	.....	14 jars
Jams & Marmalade	.....	19 jars	Soup	.....	39 tins
Jellies	.....	4 pkts.	Sultanas	.....	40 lbs.
Kippers	.....	25½ lbs.	Tomato	.....	118 tins
			Vegetables	.....	46 tins
Total weight approximately 2 tons, 6 cwts., 2 qrs., 24 lbs.					

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for manufacture	6
No. of premises registered for sale of ice cream	232

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS :

Forty-two samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich. The provisional gradings of these samples were Grade 1—37, Grade 2—4, Grade 3—1 and Grade 4—Nil.

After advice to the manufacturers of the Grade 3 sample, further sampling was carried out with satisfactory results.

Seven Ice Lollies were submitted for examination ; all these samples were satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS :

Fourteen samples of ice cream were submitted for examination of fat and sugar content by the Public Analyst, and all were genuine. In addition, four Iced Lollies were examined for possible metallic or other contamination and all were found to be satisfactory.

MAINTENANCE OF ICE CREAM ROOMS AND EQUIPMENT :

Some trouble was experienced at one manufacturing establishment in obtaining part time staff to make ice cream. Consequently, when the commodity was made by staff engaged in other duties, inadequate attention was given to cleaning equipment and Grade 2 and 3 sample reports were obtained. Structural alterations took place at the dairy at the same time, and whilst sample reports of the ice cream were reasonably satisfactory, I was not too happy about the situation. By the end of the year the alterations were completed, temperature instruments replaced and the ice cream room put in good order.

At the other ice cream manufacturing premises a good standard of hygiene was maintained. Also good sample reports were obtained of ice cream processed in continuous servers which are situated either in shops or in the open air.

It is amazing that some people engaged in serving food to the public can be so ignorant of the fundamental rules of hygiene and health. One spot check on ice cream being retailed on Sundays from mobile vehicles revealed that a filthy delivery van, normally used for collecting and delivering shoes for repair, was in use without any hand washing apparatus and without any cleansing whatsoever. It came to light that on the day in question, the usual vehicle had failed to start and the first van available as a substitute had been the shoe collecting van. This had been pressed into use without prior cleaning and without fitting with the portable washing apparatus reserved for this vehicle. Other checks revealed lack of hand towels in vehicles and in one case, the absence of a washing apparatus.

Appropriate steps to deal with the above were taken, as were steps to improve the temperature and recording apparatus on one other ice cream plant and to ensure that at a third dairy where fire had damaged the apparatus, the equipment and decoration were put in good order before ice cream manufacture was resumed.

MEAT INSPECTION

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough but during the year only 11 pigs were slaughtered at one slaughterhouse during the first 3 months of the year, and for the remainder of the year no slaughtering took place. During the year 638 visits were made to slaughterhouses in order to ensure 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered.

The details of the animals slaughtered and the particulars of condemnations are tabulated below :—

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed	1,002	57	28	139	2,255	Nil
Number inspected	1,002	57	28	139	2,255	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis :—</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	413	20	—	8	808	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	41.21	35.08	—	5.75	35.84	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	67	6	—	—	87	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.78	12.28	—	—	3.86	—
<i>Cysticercosis :—</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	15	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Causes of condemnation other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis included :—

Abscesses, Angioma, Bruising, Blood Splashing, Cirrhosis, Distomatosis, Dropsy, Injuries, Jaundice, Mammitis, Melanosis, Nephritis, Peritonitis, Parasitic infestations and Pneumonia.

The total amount of meat and offal found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption was 5 tons, 14 cwts., 2 qrs., 14 lbs.

In 1955, 1.15% of bovines slaughtered were found to be affected with *C. Bovis* but the figure has increased to 1.41% during 1956. Most of the animals affected came from one cattle grazier who buys from Ireland for fattening on the Norfolk Marshes and investigations point to these animals having been infested prior to their arrival in

this Country. One would have expected cysticercosis to be on the decrease rather than on the increase and this condition gives great concern to the butchers. Deep freezing renders the affected carcasses fit for human consumption but there is a loss of "bloom" on such carcasses and consequently the butcher has to sell this meat at a lower price than would otherwise have been the case. Investigations are being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food but it would appear, owing to the complexity of the problem, that it will be many years before it is finally overcome.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

The above Regulations came into force on January 1st, 1956, with the exception of certain provisions which came into force on July 1st, 1956.

The Regulations deal with cleanliness of equipment and personal cleanliness, prevention of contamination of food, protection of food whilst in transit, notification by persons suffering from certain infections which could cause food poisoning, structural conditions, sinks, washbasins, hot and cold water supplies, first aid equipment, temperature at which certain foods must be kept and certain requirements with regard to stalls and to the transport and carrying of meat.

These Regulations are a most important step in the fight against food poisoning and the establishment of hygienic practices in the handling of food. Food hygiene is not a task that can be undertaken once and finished, it is a task that is ever before us and the most important phase of this work rests in the education of food handlers. The Regulations compel an occupier to provide wash-basins and hot and cold water, towels and soap, and nailbrushes, but the vital point is to get the workers to use these facilities. In this enlightened age it ought not to be necessary to put up notices to remind food handlers to wash their hands after having used a sanitary convenience. Unfortunately this is still necessary and will remain so until food handlers become really "hygiene conscious". Food hygiene is a common sense attitude to the handling of food; it does not need an expensive and elaborate set up but demands personal care and pride.

The advent of the regulations added responsibility to the department, more so as Lowestoft is a sea-side resort. Boarding houses and hotels which had not previously been inspected came within the scope of the Regulations, and despite the calls on our time due to the implementation of the Council's 5 year Slum Clearance Programme it was decided to make inspections of Hotels and Boarding Houses the first priority. Dealing with boarding houses raised some problems owing to the confined nature of the premises, the short season involved, and the fact that we were often asking occupiers to spend money on installing washbasins, hot and cold water and the provision of impervious tops to working tables at a time when they had recently been notified of the revaluation of the properties, and were wondering how to meet the rate demands. Generally speaking the Inspectors were welcomed and given every assistance in carrying out their inspections and the opportunity was taken at the time of the inspection to discuss the reasons for the various requirements.

The food factories were all inspected and at the end of the year major improvements had nearly all been completed.

Inspections had commenced of the various food shops and businesses and these initial inspections will be carried on during the present year.

It is pleasing to record that in some cases the layout, equipment, and hygienic state of the premises is superior to that required by the Regulations.

There is still a lot of spade work to be done on Food Hygiene and the public could play a big part in this sphere of Public Health. They should not be afraid to complain of unhygienic practices and they have the right to refuse to trade at premises where a good standard of food hygiene is not observed. Managements have a vital part to play and I would suggest that their aim should be, to so conduct their businesses that they could welcome inspection at any time of the whole of their premises.

Protective clothing (overalls and head scarves, etc.) is worn by the workers in the food factories and it was observed that a number of women workers were going home wearing this protective clothing and in some cases it was noticed that this clothing was worn at home whilst carrying out domestic duties.

In my opinion it is most unhygienic to wear protective clothing in a food factory, which may have become contaminated outside the factory.

The Managements of the firms concerned were approached and agreed that as from the 1st of January, 1957, all protective clothing worn in the factories would not be taken out except for laundering. The date of commencement was fixed in order that new cloakroom accommodation could be completed at one factory and to ensure uniformity of action at all the factories.

Although we have been considering the business side of food hygiene it must be borne in mind that the public has still to become hygiene conscious with regard to the storage and preparation of food at home. At times complaints are received regarding the unsoundness of food and investigations prove that the shop-keeper has supplied a perfectly good article but due to the neglect of the householder it is no longer fit for food.

The following table indicates the number of schedules sent out during the year listing the works required to bring the premises up to a satisfactory standard in accordance with the Regulations.

<i>Type of Premises</i>				<i>Number of Schedules Supplied</i>	
Guest and Boarding Houses		.....	.....	86	
Cafes and Restaurants	.....	.....	.....	32	
Food Shops	.....	.....	.....	50	
Food Factories	.....	.....	.....	7	
Hotels	.....	.....	.....	21	
Clubs	.....	.....	.....	2	
Canteens	.....	.....	.....	13	
Shrimp Boilers	.....	.....	.....	6	
Licensed Premises	.....	.....	.....	4	
Butcher's Shops	.....	.....	.....	9	
Fried Fish and Chips Shops	.....	.....	.....	1	
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	2	
Dairies	.....	.....	.....	1	
Kiosks	.....	.....	.....	2	
Stalls	.....	.....	.....	1	
				237	

Tabulated below is the work shown as completed at the end of 1956, but only a limited number of re-inspections were possible owing to the pressure of slum clearance inspections.

Artificial light provided	.....	.....	2
Walls cleansed and decorated	.....	.....	36
Ceilings cleansed and decorated	.....	.....	24
Non-absorbent surfaces provided to tables, counters, etc.	.....	.....	27
Water heaters provided	.....	.....	8
Sinks provided	.....	.....	8
Waste pipes repaired	.....	.....	1
Floors cleansed	.....	.....	14
W.C.'s repaired	.....	.....	2
New Sanitary accommodation and ablution blocks built	.....	.....	2
Washing up machines provided	.....	.....	1

Inspections were made of the Council owned properties where food is handled, at Nicholas Everitt Park, Sparrows Nest, Denes Oval, Battery Green, Kensington Gardens, Pier Pavilion, Pier Terrace, Royal Plain, Jubilee Parade and Victoria Bathing Station, together with the kitchens at the following schools. The Grammar, Northfield, Roman Hill, Kirkley, Alderman Woodrow, Pakefield, Oulton Broad, Dell, St. Margaret's, Roman Hill Infants and New Meadow Infants.

The necessary works of improvement at the Pier Pavilion were undertaken before the Pavilion was opened and improvements were also completed at the Denes Oval. Owing to the nature of the seasonal enterprises the works required could not be undertaken until after the end of the holiday season.

MILK SUPPLY

Licensed Pasteurisers (H.T.S.T. Processes)	.....	.....	2
No. of milk dealers licensed issued,			
(1) Pasteurised	.....	.....	48
(2) Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	16

Regular sampling of the milk supplied to the Borough was carried out throughout the year and the milk was examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich, for the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests.

The results of the tests were :—

	<i>T/T</i>	<i>Past.</i>	<i>T/T Past.</i>
No. of Samples submitted	32	62	43
Satisfactory	31	61	40
Unsatisfactory	1	1	3

Three of the unsatisfactory pasteurised samples came from the same H.T.S.T. plant. After investigations had been carried out the heating water of the pasteuriser was raised by 1°F. This raised the temperature of the pasteurising process sufficiently to allow of slight fluctuations which had previously caused imperfect pasteurisation. Later on this heat recording apparatus was found to be completely unreliable and was therefore replaced.

In the remaining two samples of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milks which failed the tests, the dairymen were requested to observe greater care and attention to the cleanliness of equipment and the pasteurising process.

School milk supplies were found to be satisfactory throughout the year.

176 samples of milk were examined in the laboratory of the Health Department. The standard of judgment as to whether milks were satisfactory was that of the Sale of Milk Regulations, i.e., Milk Fat 3.0% and Solids other than Milk Fat 8.5%.

61 samples were deficient to some extent in Fat and/or Non-fatty solids.

Five of these samples were adulterated with water and court proceedings were taken which are reported.

In a number of the remaining samples the deficiencies were so slight as to be not worth following up, but nevertheless the samples were sub-standard and the milk was of poor quality.

There are many Friesian cows in local herds and this probably accounts for milk of low fat and solids content. Nevertheless, by the introduction of other animal breeds such as Jerseys, Guernseys, Devons, this poor quality milk could be improved. One may say that these observations are those of the central government, for the Milk Marketing Board have introduced a scheme whereby producers who persistently market poor milk will not have their milk contracts renewed. I feel that I cannot pass by this question without noting that whereas there is a reasonable standard in law for cow's milk, much milk can be, and has been produced, which is sub-standard, for which there is no legal penalty, and for which the customer pays a standard price.

Investigations of farm supplies showed in many cases that the morning milk was of a poorer quality than the evening milk. The reason for this was probably due to the fact that the time lag between milking is uneven, in some cases morning milking took place between 6 and 7 a.m. and evening milking as early as 4 p.m., giving a 15 hour and a 9 hour period between milkings. The shorter period gives a better quality milk. It would be better if the periods were more nearer even, but apparently this raises difficulties with regard to the labour involved, longer hours, overtime payments, etc.

In an effort to improve local supplies, the County Milk Production was asked to investigate milk from one farm which was of poor quality, two dairymen were instructed to bulk their supplies (which they did with beneficial results), and one dairyman cancelled his contract with his producer. I feel that we have established where poor milk originates, and having given facts to the recipients of poor milk and to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, can do little more than ensure that local bottlers of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk adequately mix and bulk individual churns.

A new standard for Channel Island, Jersey, Guernsey and South Devon milk was prescribed by the Milk and Dairies (Channel Island and South Devon Bill) Regulations, 1956, under which the above milk should contain not less than 4% of milk fat. 12 samples of this milk were examined and one contained less than 4% fat. This was an isolated occurrence as follow-up samples of this milk were satisfactory.

27 samples of cow's milk were taken at farms for biological testing, and all samples were reported as free from Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES

146 samples (11 formal and 135 informal samples) were submitted for examination to Dr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., the Public Analyst at Norwich, and 18 were found to be unsatisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1956

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	58	17	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	242	212	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	18	22	—	—
TOTAL	318	251	9	—

FACTORIES ACT

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M.	By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	—	3	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	3	3	—	2	—
(a) insufficient	13	10	—	2	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	18	17	—	8	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111).

<i>Nature of Work</i>	Section 110			Section 111		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Pro-secsutions</i>
Wearing apparel Making, etc.	3	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	175	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc.	24	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	202	—	—	—	—	—

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT
REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVER FOR 1956.

Month	Sun		Rain		Average Daily Temperature		1956			
	1956	Normal	1956	Normal	1956	Normal	Highest Max.	Lowest Min.	Lowest Max.	Highest Min.
		1921-50	ins.	ins.		1921-50				Lowest Grass Min.
January	65.9	56.0	3.37	1.67	38.2	38.9	50	26	26	40
February	57.8	75.0	2.15	1.40	30.7	39.3	51	17	23	39
March	169.0	136.0	0.71	1.61	42.0	42.9	57	31	37	46
April	179.2	165.0	0.81	1.48	41.9	46.6	64	28	42	43
May	249.9	211.0	0.73	1.61	52.5	51.5	71	32	52	53
June	145.4	212.0	1.47	1.81	55.2	57.5	71	40	54	53
July	172.8	214.0	1.78	2.27	61.5	61.6	81	47	60	60
August	167.4	195.0	3.86	2.20	60.2	61.7	71	39	60	60
September	127.3	156.0	1.12	1.96	57.9	58.4	73	45	59	60
October	121.2	117.0	3.76	2.79	50.1	51.7	63	36	47	55
November	62.3	62.0	1.12	2.35	43.9	44.6	54	30	38	48
December	19.0	51.0	1.0	2.33	42.5	40.0	55	28	35	47
	1537.2	1650.0	21.88	23.48	48.1	49.5	* Not available.			
Highest Maximum	81 degrees	25th July	Lowest Maximum		23 degrees		February 1st.			
Lowest Minimum	17	" 3rd February	Highest Minimum		60		" 8th, 9th, 25th July 3rd, 4th, 31st August and 23rd September.			

LOWESTOFT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

Port Medical Officer of Health : DR. ARTHUR C. GEE.

Chief Port Health Inspector : H. CORMACK.

Deputy Port Health Inspector : F. G. S. HILL.

CHARACTER OF THE PORT

The Port area of Lowestoft is divided into three separate areas, consisting of the Hamilton, Waveney and Trawl Dock used by Trawlers and Drifters for the landing of White Fish and Herring (during the season), and the North and South Quays situate on the banks of Lake Lothing, west of the swing bridge. The North and South Quays are used by the merchant ships carrying timber, salt, stone, coal, etc. The west end of the North Quay is used for coaling and general repair work including dry docking whilst the South bank of Lake Lothing is extensively used by the ship building firms.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The medical services as outlined in the Report for 1955 have been maintained.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Port consists of fresh and salt water mains and the fishing port comprising Hamilton, Waveney and Trawl Docks is served by 5,160 ft. of fresh water main and 4,290 ft. of salt water mains. The discrepancy is occasioned by the absence of salt water supply to East, West and South wharves of the Trawl Market, these wharves are used only for docking purposes. There is no water supply to the South Quay but fresh water points are provided on the North Quay.

MARKET CLEANSING

As in previous years the daily cleansing of the fish market was carried out in a most efficient manner. Slight difficulty was experienced due to the improper stacking of fish boxes on the market.

The fish merchants concerned were approached and immediately re-stacked their boxes thus allowing cleansing of the whole of the market area.

FISH LANDINGS FOR THE YEAR

The average monthly strength of the trawler fleet during the year was 60 vessels. The highest number of vessels at sea was 76 during January, and the lowest 53 during April. The latter half of the year was constant with 59 vessels. The total number of landings made during the year was 1,678.

Set out below are the quantities and values of fish landed during 1956.

			<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Value (£'s)</i>
Brill	.....	.....	2,049	19,864
Catfish	.....	.....	510	1,285
Cod	.....	.....	39,897	122,399
Conger Eels	.....	.....	315	545
Dabs	.....	.....	6,350	19,338
Dogfish	.....	.....	842	2,299

Flukes /Flounders .....	.....	974	941
Gurnards /Latches .....	.....	2,593	4,241
Haddocks.....	.....	24,375	65,834
Halibut .....	.....	111	1,592
Hake .....	.....	155	1,101
Herring (Trawled) .....	.....	324	504
Lemon Soles .....	.....	1,496	13,449
Ling .....	.....	548	648
Monkfish .....	.....	716	1,425
Megrimms .....	.....	23	46
Mackerel .....	.....	325	1,057
Mullet (Red) .....	.....	6	70
Norway Lobsters .....	.....	43	265
Plaice .....	.....	100,778	562,498
Pollack .....	.....	27	57
Roes .....	.....	374	1,826
Skates and Rays .....	.....	15,786	65,376
Saithe .....	.....	747	1,286
Soles .....	.....	11,171	168,898
Turbot .....	.....	11,293	80,533
Tusk .....	.....	2	2
Whiting .....	.....	15,607	39,778
Witches .....	.....	492	2,629
All others .....	.....	1,270	2,601
TOTALS :		239,199	£1,182,387

HERRING FISHING

Landings and Values for 1956.

<i>No. of Landings</i>	<i>Quantity of Crans</i>	<i>Value</i>
1,497	51,599	£265,423

There were 376 landings less than in 1955, although the total number of crans landed was 26 more than in 1955 with an increased value of £1,020 over 1955.

1956 was again a very disappointing season and following upon the poor fishing of 1955 particularly affected the curers who received only 1,349 crans. Less than half the number of curing crews were employed as in the previous year, and it is becoming more and more evident that we shall soon have seen the last of Scotch Herring Curers so far as East Anglia is concerned.

The following table shows the disposal of the herrings during the season.

	<i>Crans.</i>
Pickle Cure	1,349
Klondyked	1,848
Redded	4,924
Kipperred	5,036
Marinated	3,832
Canned	2,873
Dog Food	365
Bait	74
Frozen	8,916

Meal and Oil	1,293
Freshed	21,088

TOTAL : 51,599

THE FLEET

Four new vessels were added to the fleet during 1956 but seven vessels were sold for breaking up. Two vessels were converted from coal to oil burning. Three vessels also left to work from other ports.

During the East Anglian Herring Season the fleet consisted of 16 steam and 52 motor drifters. Of the 52 motor drifters, 33 came down from Scotland. This shows a reduction of 19 drifters as compared with 1955.

INSPECTIONS.

The systematic inspection of trawlers and fish holds was maintained throughout the year and 899 inspections were made for the purpose of ensuring cleanliness and sanitary condition of fish holds. Only four fish holds were found to be in need of further cleansing and this work was carried out immediately. The pound boards in the fish holds of eight vessels were renewed in whole or in part after verbal representation to the owners concerned.

578 general inspections of trawlers and drifters were made during the year and the following matters received attention as a result of verbal representation to the owners :—

Dirty bedding destroyed	22
Bunks and galleys painted	7
Food stores repaired	5
Water tanks cleansed	29
Disinfections	1

25 samples of drinking water were taken from the water tanks of fishing vessels and 11 were found to be unsatisfactory. Immediately the unsatisfactory reports were to hand the owners were contacted and arrangements made for the cleansing and cement washing of the tanks.

FISH INSPECTION.

Throughout the year trawl fish was examined every morning prior to the commencement of the fish sales on the fish markets and it was not found necessary to condemn any fish as unfit for human consumption.

Inspections of herrings were made throughout each daily landing.

Regular supervision was maintained of the boxes used for fish packing and there was little cause for complaint during the year. It was found necessary to complain about the dirty aluminium boxes used aboard a drifter from another port. These boxes were very dirty and on our insistence were cleansed before the drifter again sailed.

RODENT CONTROL.

567 inspections were made under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1956, and 212 certificates were issued under the Order.

As from April 16th, 1956, a charge of 10/- was made for each certificate issued and each certificate remains in force for a period of 4 months from the date of issue.

During the year four Lowestoft Drifters and one Scotch Drifter were found to have minor infestations of rats. De-ratization was carried out by the Corporation Rodent Operator and the cost of these treatments was charged to the respective owners of the vessels concerned.

VERMIN.

It is most pleasing to report that during the year there was not a single case of vermin aboard any of the fishing vessels.

In conclusion, your Port Medical Officer and Chief Port Health Inspector would again place on record their appreciation of the ready and willing co-operation which has been accorded by all sections of the fishing industry and by the Harbour Master and members of his staff.

We would also express our thanks for the courteous co-operation and assistance we have at all times received from the officers of H.M. Customs.

SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B.

<i>Ships from :</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Number Inspected</i>		<i>Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.</i>
			<i>By the Medical Officer of Health</i>	<i>By the Public Health Inspector</i>	
Foreign Ports	166	16,877	14	64	1 (2 cases of Chicken Pox 1 case of Measles)
Coastwise	352	51,194	6	82	Nil
TOTAL	518	68,071	20	146	1

SECTION II—BRITISH FISHING VESSELS—
Number of Landings by British Fishing Vessels made in the Port during the year.

TABLE B.

		<i>Landings</i>	<i>Appro. Tonnage</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
TRAWLERS	.....	1,678	100,680	} 1,565
DRIFTERS	.....	1,497	59,880	
TOTAL	.....	3,175	160,560	

SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE C.

<i>Passenger Traffic</i>	Number of Passengers	INWARDS - NIL.
	Number of Passengers	OUTWARDS - NIL.

Cargo Traffic

	IMPORTS	
	<i>Coastwise</i>	<i>Foreign</i>
Coal	19,120 tons	
Oil and Spirit	51,142 „	
Stone	25,676 „	
Grain	232 „	
Sundries	477 „	961 tons
D.B.B.		1,922 Stds.
Sleepers and Crossings		17,139 loads
	EXPORTS	
	<i>Coastwise</i>	<i>Foreign</i>
Grains	1,215 tons	5,290 tons
Cured Herrings		1,344 barrels
Scrap Iron	428 tons	

Principal Ports from which ships arrive :—

FRENCH—Boulogne, Bordeaux, Calais, Bayonne.

CORSICA—Bastia.

HOLLAND—Ymuiden, Rotterdam.

BELGIUM—Antwerp, Ostend, Nieupoort, Zeebrugge.

SWEDEN—Norrköping, Halmstad, Oskarshamn.

FINLAND—Hamina.

SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

Numbers and tonnage using the district and places served by the traffic—NIL.

SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

No change.

SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS 1952

Under this section, information is required regarding—

- (1) Arrangements for the distribution of the List of Infected Areas received from the Ministry weekly.
- (2) Arrangements for the reception or transmission of Health messages to ships by radio.
- (3) Arrangements for reception of notification of cases of infectious disease by means, other than radio.
- (4) Situation of Mooring Stations for infected vessels.
- (5) Arrangements for hospital accommodation for infectious diseases, the surveillance and follow-up of contacts and the procedure used for cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and articles.

The arrangements in this Port for the above are as follows :—

- (1) List supplied to Port Medical Officer of Health and Chief and Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.

Passed to Waterguard Office, when list is prepared and amended accordingly.

- (2) (a) Arrangements made with Coastguard to contact Humber Radio for outgoing messages.
(b) Incoming messages, Humber Radio contacts Medical Officer direct or via Coastguard by telephone.
- (3) Notified to Medical Officer of Health by Waterguard immediately upon receipt.
- (4) Lowestoft Roads and Dolphin in inner harbour South of Richards Wharf.
- (5) (a) Arrangements made with Yarmouth Isolation Hospital.
(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts carried out by Port Medical Officer and Public Health Inspectors.
(c) Authority employs a cleansing man with vehicle for disinfection of ships, etc. Clothing and other articles steam disinfected by local authority. Persons can be cleansed at the Health Department Clinic.

SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

- (1) Cases may be sent either to Ipswich or Yarmouth Isolation Hospitals, and also Norwich Hospital.
- (2) Arrangements made by East Suffolk County Council ambulance service who are also responsible for vaccinal state of ambulance crews.
- (3) DR. A. G. SMITH, 24, Unthank Road, Norwich.
DR. W. A. OLIVER, M.B.E., Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.
DR. R. A. LEADER, Elm Street, Ipswich.
- (4) Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE

No change.

SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	2 cases of Chicken Pox 1 case of Measles	Nil	3	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
* These occurred aboard a foreign naval depot ship and were isolated aboard ship.				

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No occurrence of this disease.

SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No occurrence of this disease.

SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

- (1) Ships inspected on arrival. Deratisation certificates checked.
- (2) No foreign ships found to be infested with rats. Specimens for examination would be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.
- (3) Not an approved Port.
- (4) No action taken.

TABLE E.
Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.
NIL—not an approved Port.

TABLE F.
Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.
NIL—not an approved Port.

SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCE

TABLE G.

Nature and Number Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices*	
Foreign Shipping	166	Nil	Nil	—
Coastwise Shipping	352	Nil	Nil	—
British Fishing Vessels	3,175	Nil	64	64 complied with

* Includes Verbal Notices

SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 AND 1948
NIL

SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS (APPLICABLE ONLY TO PORTS APPROVED FOR THE LANDING OF ALIENS)
Not an approved Port

SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS (ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE)
No change.

